

scale.* That which happens to each individual, from conception to complete development, takes place in the species constituting the parallel threads of the vegetable and animal kingdom."

"8. Are the *human race*, and the other *animal and vegetable species*, subordinated in their reciprocal harmonies, or dependent (*pondérées*) upon each other, according to their forms and instincts of life, whilst *minerals* are subjected to mechanical and chemical law? The latter can only obey physical necessities. The more other bodies enjoy of spontaneity in their mobility and sensibility, the farther extends the circle of their attributions. Lastly, the human race deploys over the inferior beings, and over its own race, providential acts of the creative power, of which it becomes the minister over this globe."

"9. Circumscribed within the limits of his organization, *civilized man* can only act with a liberty restricted within the sphere of his destinies, although one less restricted than that of the instincts of other animals. He pursues the course prescribed by the supreme Arbiter, without being able to overstep it—any more than every other creature, according to his constitution and intellectual rank in the general order of the universe?"

R. D.

ART. XXII. *A further inquiry concerning Constitutional Irritation, and the Pathology of the Nervous System.* By BENJAMIN TRAVERS, F. R. S. Senior Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, &c. &c. &c. London, 1835. 8vo, pp. 444.

It will be remembered, that in the year 1826, Mr. Travers published a work upon constitutional irritation. The present essay is a continuation of the same subject. The former treatise has been so long before the profession, that students of the general pathology of external diseases, are, or should be familiar with its merits. The name and reputation of Mr. Travers will secure, for any of the labours of his pen, an attentive perusal, for the pathology of several injuries and local diseases, have been very successfully illustrated by him on former occasions. But we must be permitted to state, that theorizing upon an extended scale, or the philosophical analyzation of complex and multifiform questions does not appear to be the sort of this author. In the treatise before us, he objects almost in the commencement against the attempt to define with accuracy, such general terms as are used to designate the several temperaments, diatheses, &c.; things that Mr. Travers thinks that all can comprehend or recognise at sight, but which cannot be described. Now, these are precisely the classes of terms that most require definition, in all philosophical treatises—because they express the broadest, and therefore the most vague generalizations. Temperaments run into each other, and scarce ever exist in simplicity in any individual, and therefore, by Mr. Travers's rule, it is in vain to define them. Yet he does not object to the employment of the terms which designate the different temperaments! A distinguished French naturalist once declared that there existed no such things as species, yet he has described the types and representatives of numerous groups of individuals, under the title of species, to the infinite advantage of natural science. Nor is there any thing inconsistent in this procedure. There is an unbroken sheet of water between this place and London, and it is a great way to London!—but the extent of meaning attached by different persons to the phrase "a great way," and if we

* *Monstrosities* are *infra-formations*, but irregular, either totally or partially, and so of imperfections.

wish to convey 'to others an idea of the distance mentioned, surely we shall find some utility in the metaphysical abstraction, which introduced the division of the sphere, by degrees of latitude and longitude. An abstraction rendering possible a clear definition of distance. If the student of geography have no accurate notion of the whole surface of a country, how can he comprehend the position of its several parts?

We perceive in many portions of this work, the ill effects of this neglect of definition; but without descending into particulars, it may be noticed, that though the treatise dwells expressly upon "constitutional irritation," we have been unable to arrive at any very certain conclusion as to the precise meaning attached by the author to the word constitutional.

When it is added, that the style is by no means clear, that many of the cases are far from being drawn up with sufficient detail, and that some of the important phrases are such as we are unable, fully to comprehend, the disagreeable portion of our task is ended, and we feel great pleasure in recommending the work to the students of surgical pathology, for many useful hints and cases. The second part, which treats of the pathology of the nervous system, is perhaps the most valuable portion of the essay.

R. C.

ART. XXIII. *Practical Observations on Diseases of the Heart, Lungs, Stomach, Liver, &c., occasioned by Spinal Irritation; and on the Nervous System in general, as a source of organic disease. Illustrated by Cases.* By JOHN MARSHALL, M. D. London, 1835, 8vo, pp. 172.

The subject of the present work is one of uncommon interest, the lesions, namely, of the nervous system, more especially of its ganglionic portion, and the morbid phenomena thence resulting. This branch of pathology has not certainly received from the medical profession that degree of attention which it demands, and hence every new accession of well authenticated facts in relation to it, is of importance, by leading us to a better acquaintance with the true character of various abnormal conditions of the animal functions, and enabling us the more readily and certainly to direct our remedial measures for their prevention and removal.

That many of those groups of symptoms which seem to indicate a very considerable deviation from the normal condition of the heart, lungs, stomach and other viscera, are produced solely by an irritation of some portion of the nervous system, independent of any apparent disease of the organ, the derangement in the functions of which gives rise to the leading morbid phenomena, is rendered evident by the fact, that when, by our remedies, we are enabled to remove the nervous irritation, all the symptoms of organic disease promptly disappear.

The true pathology of this class of affections has, until within a very late period, been in a great measure overlooked, and its investigation still presents a field well adapted to repay the labours of the industrious investigator. The only danger we apprehend, is, that when the attention of medical men shall be more generally directed to the morbid phenomena under consideration, they will forget, as is too often the case when a new source of diseased action is first pointed out, that nervous irritation consti-